



NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

Communications Division

Mica Perry, Communications Director

317.232.1292 or mperry@cji.in.gov

Rachel Meyer, Communications Manager

317.232.7610 or rmeyer@cji.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2007

Governor Mitch Daniels Honors Indiana Public Safety Partners at Annual Awards Banquet

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. – More than 500 law enforcement officers representing approximately 200 law enforcement agencies across the state were honored today at the 13th Annual Operation Pull Over awards banquet hosted by The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving. The banquet, held at the Ritz Charles in Carmel (IN.), paid tribute to state and local law enforcement agencies in appreciation for their demonstrated commitment to improving traffic safety.

“The work of our public servants and first responders is clearly a reflection of the results they continue to deliver,” said Governor Mitch Daniels. “Thanks to their efforts we are able to preserve human life and look forward to all of the promise and potential it holds for Indiana.”

“Operation Pull Over would not be successful if not for the unwavering dedication of over 250 law enforcement agencies,” said Mike Cunegin, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI). “In fact, in 2007, Indiana set a record high seat belt usage rate of 87.9 percent. We also saw a decline in the number of alcohol-related fatalities; from 293 in 2005, to 273 in 2006. We attribute a great majority of these outcomes to sound policy as well as aggressive, year-round enforcement efforts,” Cunegin added.

Operation Pull Over relies on a dual strategy involving highly visibility enforcement and heightened public awareness is proven to reduce impaired driving and increase seat belt usage. Operation Pull Over

is structured in quarterly campaigns and is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

This annual, statewide initiative is anchored by the two major national campaigns which include the “Click It Or Ticket” mobilization (May/Memorial Day), and the “Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.” enforcement crackdown (August/Labor Day). In addition to the national enforcement campaigns, Operation Pull Over also consists of a Child Passenger Safety (September) and Safe Family Travel (November/Thanksgiving) campaign. Each campaign consists of three weeks of public awareness using television and radio advertising to support two weeks of increased enforcement.

2007 Operation Pull Over Award Recipients

Governor’s Council Chairman’s Award

Representative Peggy Welch
Senator Tom Wyss

ICJI Executive Director’s Award

Jim Noffsinger, Indiana SADD

Operation Pullover Police Departments

Small Police Department – Ligonier Police Department
Medium Police Department – Rensselaer Police Department
Large Police Department – Vincennes Police Department
Best in State Police Department – Columbus Police Department

Operation Pullover Sheriff’s Departments

Small Sheriff’s Department – Monroe County Sheriff’s Department
Large Sheriff’s Department – Miami County Sheriff’s Department
Best in State Sheriff’s Department – Wabash County Sheriff’s Department

Big City/Big County Police Departments

Small Police Department – Lake Station Police Department
Medium Police Department – Richmond Police Department
Large Police Department – Evansville Police Department
Best in State Police Department – Terre Haute Police Department

Big City/Big County Sheriff’s Departments

Small Sheriff’s Department – LaPorte County Sheriff’s Department
Large Sheriff’s Department – Elkhart County Sheriff’s Department
Best in State Sheriff’s Department – Allen County Sheriff’s Office

DUI/Task Forces

Small Task Force – Wayne County DUI Task Force

- Wayne County Sheriff's Department
- Richmond Police Department

Medium Task Force – LaPorte County DUI Task Force

- LaPorte County Sheriff's Department
- LaPorte City Police Department
- Michigan City Police Department

Medium Task Force – Vanderburgh County DUI Task Force

- Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office
- Evansville Police Department

Large Task Force – Allen County DUI Task Force

- Fort Wayne Police Department
- Allen County Sheriff's Office
- New Haven Police Department

Best in State Task Force – St. Joseph County DUI Task Force

- Mishawaka Police Department
- St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department
- South Bend Police Department
- Walkerton Police Department
- Notre Dame Police Department

Outstanding Traffic Safety Partnerships

Marion County Traffic Safety Partnership

- Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
- Lawrence Police Department
- Speedway Police Department
- Beech Grove Police Department
- Cumberland Police Department

Hamilton County Traffic Safety Coalition

- Hamilton County Sheriff's Department
- Carmel Police Department
- Fishers Police Department
- Noblesville Police Department
- Westfield Police Department

Indiana State Police – Operation Pullover

Indianapolis Post, District 52

Peru Post, District 16

Project L.O.V.E.

Martinsville Police Department

Outstanding Regional Coordinator

Northwest Region – Cpl. Chris Purser – Lake Station Police Department

Northeast Region – Captain Mike Ross – Grant County Sheriff's Department

North Central Region – Captain George Ritter – LaPorte County Sheriff's Department

West Central Region – Sgt. Nick Perrelle & Kelli Kennedy – Terre Haute Police Department

East Central Region – Mr. George Kristo – Hamilton County Sheriff's Department

Southwest Region – Captain Bryan Hicks – Knox County Sheriff's Department

Southeast Region – Deputy Mike Fogle – Dearborn County Traffic Safety Partnership

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute serves as the state's planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety and victim services. ICJI develops long-range strategies for the effective administration of Indiana's criminal and juvenile justice systems and administers federal and state funds to carry out these strategies. For more information, visit www.in.gov/cji

###